

THE CONSTITUTION A DEAD LETTER

Virginia Politicians take the Right of Suffrage from the Colored Citizens and Openly Boast of it.—The Dinner a Thorn in the Flesh.

Alexandria, Va., Special —The Democratic Constitutional Convention has adjourned until November 7th, 1901. The cause of this adjournment is not because the majority of the members of that Convention consider their Democratic political existence endangered, (as they have declared it to be safe), but because they are afraid to show their political hand prior to the election from the fact that it means death to free schools to the extent of 90 per cent, so far as the Negro is interested. While State Chairman Ellison said October 17, "I do not hesitate to give to you, and through you to the white men of this commonwealth, both by personal and official assurance, that the Convention has fixed an unalterable law of enacting a clause, which will forever remove the Negro as a factor in every political affair."

President John Goode, of the Constitutional Convention, at the same meeting said: "The Democratic party is pledged in its platform to eliminate the ignorant and worthless Negro factor from the politics of the State without taking the right of suffrage from a single white man; and speaking for my colleague in the Convention, I solemnly declare to you that they will keep the pledge to the letter."

Mr. Claude Swanson at a meeting at Roanoke, said: "The party has decided that we are going to disfranchise and strike down every Negro possible without taking away the vote of a white man now entitled to the ballot."

Mr. A. J. Montague, Democratic nominee for Governor, says: "The Democratic party through its organizations in the Convention is slowly, but surely forming a law that will so effectually exclude the idle, shiftless and illiterate of the Negro race from the suffrage that the Republican wealth can not prevail against it. The trouble with our opponents is that they realize now that we will accomplish this and keep the pledge that no white man will be disfranchised. I stand here and declare it, for I do know it is the truth."

With these truths every colored citizen of Virginia who expects to continue his residence here or guards with jealous care the home of his ancestors certainly should make it a duty to vote the Republican ticket Nov. 5th, headed by J. Hampton Hoge, for Governor. Notwithstanding that a few of the smart set, or some of the old free Negroes (as they term themselves), say that only themselves ought to be allowed to vote. When it is known that the white people of the grand old commonwealth of Virginia especially those of the Democratic party that "all cool look alike," which of course gives the colored "400" without the 4 no precedence whatever, and should the Negro fail to do his whole duty on election day in Old Virginia, he will never again be a factor in politics in this State. It is asserted by many that the Republicans have done nothing for the Negro and the Roanoke Convention was composed of white men (when there were 27 colored delegates) let all those assertions be true. If Hoge, Dickinson and Grover fail to be elected next Tuesday the auxiliaries of the two great parties will live in Virginia; but the Negro will be out of them. So it behooves every colored citizen of influence within the bounds of the Constitution of Virginia to go to it that

every colored man who is old enough to vote and also able to mark his ballot gets to the polls bright and early Tuesday morning as we are for the first time since the rebellion combating against the usurpers of human rights, collectively, and the failure of colored men to vote the Republican ticket this time means political death to us as a people and even generations unborn.

Your correspondent has many requests for an expression in relation to Washington dinner. There has been enough said already, and the only unusual occurrence of the whole affair is that the anti-Parker newspapers and company did not try to cheat Prof. Washington out of the honor of dining with the bravest and most courageous man that ever occupied the White House at Washington as President of a country that all civilized nations point to with pride and admiration.

The marriage of Rev. W. H. Waring and Miss Sarah Fox has been announced to be solemnized Nov 24, 1901.

Mr. Wm. Credit has been assigned to a good position in the Southern Railroad Company.

That many colored citizens of the city of magnificent distances feel so proud of Booker T. Washington dining at the White House. We hope that they (the colored citizens) will do likewise for their friends as such hospitality by Washington Americans have passed into history, unless we can take nourishment in liquid form and growl at it.

Several of Parker's relatives and friends have died recently of impromptu acquaintance.

The speech made by Hon. J. Hampton Hoge at the Opera House recently was the finest oratorical effort ever made at a political meeting in Alexandria, and his arguments as panaceas for the upbuilding of Virginia by all of her people were just and inspiring. The meeting was attended by the J. P. Morgans, Vanderbils, Carnegies, and also Booker Washingtons, Pinchbacks, Terrills and E. E. Coopers of our town, all of whom were converted, and on the 6th of November if Hoge fails to win, Andrew Jackson Montague will know some one else was in the field.

Robert Hopkins, who shot William Griffin in a street fight provoked by Griffin a few days ago, is well known on both sides of the Potomac and very respectfully connected. At times Mr. Hopkins has held for many years prominent positions in this State. He was for several years a bright, local politician and is admired by all who know him, who regret to know that it was necessary for him to resort to such protection in self defense.

COLORED WASHINGTON.

(Continued from page 2.)

large quantities and hence are able to compete in selling with any of them.

One of the institutions of the city in which all take just pride is the Private Sanatorium of Dr. John R. Francis at 2112 Pennsylvania avenue, N. W. It is established for the benefit of the sick whose home surroundings may not be the most convenient to their recovery. It is fitted up with all modern appliances and is a model of cleanliness.

One of the largest coal dealers in Washington is the firm of

WATTS AND BROTHER,
212 C street, southwest. This firm has been in the coal business over twenty

years and is the oldest of any colored firm dealing in coal in the District. Like all the rest they started on small capital, and built up step by step. Now they have four delivery wagons, which may be seen delivering coal at any point in the District. Their sales mount into the thousands of tons annually. No one ever complains that they do not get from Watts clean coal full weight and measure. Mr. Watts is one of the staunch and reliable business men of the District.

Among the most successful house painters in Washington is Mr. John Dixon, 1608 R street, N. W., who is a large contractor circumscribed only by his ability to get good reliable journeyman painters to assist him.

Mr. T. A. James, 1510 Madison street is another of our contracting painters. He also carries on a large amount of work and works on some of the best houses and buildings in the city.

Mr. Charles A. Hamer of 206 C street S. W. is a carriage and sign painter of considerable artistic ability. He has done much fine work and any one giving him an order for his class of painting will get fine work.

One of the younger men who has made his way well to the front as a contracting or "boss" painter is Mr. Halley Park of 2013 9th street, N. W.

Mr. Robert E. Rencher of 2311 7th street who is making an enviable record as a paper hanger and decorator includes paintings also among his contracts.

The colored women of Washington have for many years, even before the war, had a strong hold upon the lucrative business of the dressmaker, a business, that has not escaped the evolutionary process common to all kinds of business in recent years. Such is now the stern decree of dame fashion, that every well dressed young woman must have in her wardrobe one or more gowns modeled by a man tailor. This condition opened up an opportunity.

MR. L. STEWART WEST,

A tailor possessing much artistic taste opened an establishment for making tailor made gowns, coats, etc., in 1896. The venture was a success from the beginning and Mr. West soon numbered among his customers some of the ladies who are leaders of fashion in Washington.

In 1898 he married Mrs. Emma Peck, a dressmaker possessing unusual skill in designing and draping, and who had a large number of wealthy and stylish customers. Their business has steadily grown and during the busy season is circumscribed only by inability to secure competent help. As it is, from six to ten persons are employed by them. Their business goes well up into the thousands annually.

Mr. West is a Washington boy to the marrow bone. When a youth he went to Brussels, Belgium and learned the business of a tailor thoroughly from one of the noted French masters in that stylish capital which may fittingly be styled a smaller edition of Paris. Before returning to Washington he worked at his trade in New York and Boston.

His place of business, handsomely fitted up, is at 600 K St., N. W.

Mr. and Mrs. West are to be congratulated upon the fact that they have achieved success so early in life, and have some of life's choicest blessings ahead of them.

The Colored American is on sale at all news-stands. For sale, 5c.

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